

Rejections of Claims 1-11

The method of claim 11 includes “retracting slack in the electrical cord as the peripheral input device is positioned.” Thus, a possible advantage of this arrangement may be that a cord for a mouse (one of many possible embodiments of the peripheral device) may be automatically shortened and lengthened as needed as the mouse is moved over a mouse pad. Of course other advantages and peripheral devices other than a mouse are possible.

In contrast, Owen teaches a module for shortening a line that extends to a mouse. However, Owen does not teach or suggest a technique to retract/slack in the line as a peripheral device is positioned. In this manner, once the line is wrapped around the spindle of the module that is described in Owen, the length of the line that extends to the mouse is fixed. Owen teaches away from a technique in which slack in a line that extends to a peripheral device is retracted as the peripheral device is positioned. For example, Owen describes that the module “minimizes the likelihood of the cord’s movement, during the mouse 16’s manipulation, being bothersome to the computer apparatus 12/14 environment.” See col. 7, lls. 39-48 of Owen. Therefore, Owen not only fails to disclose the limitations of claim 1, Owen also teaches away from claim 1. For at least these reasons, the Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 and claims 2-11 that depend therefrom.

Rejections of Claims 12-16

The method of claim 12 includes “retracting slack in the electrical cord as the peripheral input device is moved.”

See discussion of claim 1 above. In particular, Owen neither teaches nor suggests, and in fact teaches away from, a technique in which slack in an electrical cord is retracted when a peripheral input device moves. Thus, for at least this reason, the Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 12 and claims 13-16 that depend therefrom.